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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20530

April 21, 1965

All lawyers
Please Return
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Mr. Joe Moody
General Counsel
General Services Administration
Washington, D. C.

Dear Joe:

I am enclosing a copy of a memorandum which has been sent to all United States Attorneys on the subject of demonstrations and sit-ins on Federal property.

You will note that we have suggested that the United States Attorney, in the event of demonstrations, should maintain close communication with the agency in charge of the Federal property and likely to be involved.

We hope that the issuance of this memorandum will help us to have a uniform Federal Government policy should demonstrations occur in the future as they did the early part of March.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
Barefoot Sanders
Assistant Deputy Attorney General

File
PPS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20530

TO ALL UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS:

In the past two months several United States Attorneys have contacted the Department regarding demonstrations and "sit-ins" at Federal Courthouses and other Federal property. In the event similar situations arise in the future, it is important that the Federal Government, insofar as possible, follow uniform policies and procedures. The purpose of this letter is to suggest what those policies and procedures should be in the light of recent experience.

We believe that the following suggestions will be helpful in preparing for such demonstrations:

1. Keep informed through press media and other sources of information of planned or predicted events and activities which might culminate in demonstrations or "sit-ins" on Federal property.
2. The jurisdictional status of Federal property likely to be the scene of demonstrations should be clearly established.
3. Close communications should be initiated and maintained with the regional or area supervisor representing the agency in charge of the Federal property likely to be involved -- such as General Services Administration, Post Office Department, etc.
4. Since United States Marshals are not in uniform, it is difficult for them to control demonstrations. Thus, regardless of the jurisdictional status of the Federal property, in most situations state or municipal police should be encouraged to make the necessary

confrontation with demonstrators. The desirability of this will have to be ascertained, of course, in the light of local conditions.

It should be established that the state or municipal police will respond to requests from your office or from the agency in charge of the building and will use its facilities. In working with the state or municipal police you should be aware of their statutory authority, available manpower, training, attitude, equipment, and their plans for handling the demonstration.

5. Each attorney in your office should be familiar with the opinion of Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr., in Hosea Williams, et al. v. Wallace, Middle District of Alabama, March 17, 1965, soon to appear in the advance sheets of the Federal Supplement. Judge Johnson discusses the rights of petition and assembly and problems related thereto.

Should demonstrations occur I will appreciate your contacting me by telephone or teletype and keeping me posted on developments. In handling demonstrations on Federal property, you will want to keep in mind the following:

1. The unanticipated appearance of firearms or use of excessive force may incite additional disturbance.
2. It is desirable to use whatever procedures appear most likely to attract the cooperation of the demonstrators. For example, meeting with a representative group of demonstrators for a brief period might be helpful.
3. The use of such devices as stretchers and wheel chairs for the removal of "lie-ins"

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diminishes the appearance of disagreeable force, and is adaptable to the maintenance of ingress and egress for the normal conduct of business in Federal buildings.

4. Arrest of demonstrators by U. S. Marshals is likely to incite additional disturbance. Therefore, a cautious policy should be followed with respect to arrest. However, attacks on or physical abuse of Federal officials should not be tolerated.

5. Our experience has shown that blanket Court Orders prohibiting demonstrators from entering Federal property are not desirable and may lead to additional disturbances.

Finally, we recognize that each situation is somewhat unique. In dealing with these matters there is no substitute for good judgment based on adequate preparation. We rely on you to exercise that good judgment and will help in any way we can.

Sincerely yours,



Joseph P. Sanders
Assistant Deputy Attorney General

Memorandum

TO : All Regional Administrators
Attention: Regional Directors, PBS

Date: MAY 14 1965

FROM : Acting Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

In reply refer to:

SUBJECT: Demonstrations.

This refers to my memorandum of May 10, 1965, subject as above.

The handling of demonstrations, "sit-ins," etc., has been the subject of discussion with officials of the Department of Justice, and it has been agreed that the General Services Administration will handle such matters, under the direction of, and in close cooperation with, the Office of the U.S. Attorney of the area concerned. There must be mutual understanding of the action to be taken, and assurance that such action is undertaken with legal authority and will not be in violation of civil rights.

Procedures dealing with demonstrations will be as follows:

1. All plans dealing with the handling of demonstrations shall be discussed with the Office of the U.S. Attorney of the area concerned, and formulated with the approval and guidance of that Office.
2. Any information received regarding impending demonstrations, or of demonstrations in progress, shall be forwarded immediately to the U.S. Attorney's Office by telephone or memorandum, as determined by the imminence of the action.

Field offices should be advised of these procedures as soon as possible.

William A. Schuman

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Washington, D.C. 20405

Memorandum

TO : All Regional Administrators
 Attention: Regional Directors, PBS Date: MAY 10 1965

FROM : Acting Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

SUBJECT: Demonstrations

In reply refer to:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter from the Assistant Deputy Attorney General to the GSA General Counsel dated April 21, 1965, with an attached memorandum to all United States Attorneys regarding policies and procedures to be followed by them in coping with demonstrations and "sit-ins." Subparagraph 3 of paragraph 2 of the attachment deals with the United States Attorney initiating and maintaining close communications with the agency in charge of the Federal property likely to be involved.

Enclosed also is a copy of a memorandum from the Director, Compliance Division, to the Acting Administrator dated May 5, 1965, regarding plans for massive demonstrations, during the month of May throughout the United States, protesting the war in Viet Nam.

These memorandums are forwarded for information and necessary action. Field offices should be alerted for necessary preplanning in accordance with chapter 10-3, Physical Protection Handbook, 5730.2. Information on demonstrations and "sit-ins" should be reported in accordance with GSA Order, PBS 2400.5, Notification of National Disasters and Other Emergencies.

William A. Schmitt

Enclosures 2

TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE 6 August 1965
TO: PPS File: Sec. 3 (Overall Policy File)		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	
REMARKS:		
<p>Additional copies filed in the following PPS Files:</p> <p>1 - Sec. 3 PhySD Policy File II</p> <p>1 - PPS Demonstration File - Congress of Unrepresented People.)</p> <p>AC/PhySD advised already have copy.</p> <p>(Note: Copy forwarded to OGC, 7D-01 Hqs, for information and files.</p>		
FROM:		
Janet		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	EXTENSION

FORM NO. 241
1 FEB 55

REPLACES FORM 36-8
WHICH MAY BE USED.

☆ GPO : 1957-O-439445

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